Criminal cases pending against employees of Allahabad Bank

1198. SHRI VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the criminal/civil cases pending with the police/courts against the employees of Allahabad Bank during the last three years;

(b) whether these cases involve fraud, cheating and acts of misappropriation;

(c) if so, the details of such employees; and

(d) what action is proposed/likely to be taken against such guilty employees under service and conduct rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Allahabad Bank has reported 40, 7 and 6 criminal cases pending respectively during 2002, 2003 and 2004. Out of these 53 cases, 22 related to frauds, 1 to cheating 3 to misappropriation and 27 related to advances irregularities. 53 employees were involved in these cases and in addition eight *suo-moto* traps were . laid against eight employees. Appropriate action, commensurate with the gravity of misconduct, is taken under the relevant service and conduct rules against the guilty employees.

Electrification of rural households

1199. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for coverage of hundred thousands villages by 2007 and providing access to electricity to all rural households is being examined by his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. (b) Does not arise.

Higher interest rate on savings

1200. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Provident Fund is maintained only in the post offices and branches of State Bank of India;

(b) whether higher rates of interest on savings of senior citizens has recently been allowed to those who held accounts in Post Offices and not in the SBI; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this discriminatory decision and whether this higher rate of interest will also be allowed to senior citizens holding Provident Fund Accounts in Branches of SBI and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Kelkar panel for changes in economic structure

t1201. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government constituted Kelkar panel to bring about basic changes in the economic structure;

(b) if so, whether the above panel has suggested some basic changes in this Ministry; and

(c) if so, the main points of suggestion for structural changes in his Ministry and the steps being taken by Government to change the structure in the Ministry in the light of abovesaid suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A working Group under the-chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar was set up in September, 2002 to review the organizational structure of the Ministry of Finance. The working Group's suggestions, which broadly envisage reorganization of various divisions/ work in the Ministry of Finance, provide valuable inputs to the continuing efforts to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the Ministry.

Conversion of Stock Exchanges into companies

†1202. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert the stock-exchanges into companies, if so, the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.